

Public Sector

S A F E T Y R E P O R T

Board of Occupational Safety and Health Tightens Bloodborne Pathogens Enforcement

On September 29, 2000, the Maine Board of Occupational Safety and Health voted to adopt OSHA Directive CPL 2-2.44D, which strengthens enforcement procedures for the occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens. This directive requires, among other measures, that Public Sector Enforcement Officers inspect for engineering controls to minimize or eliminate exposures to blood or other potentially infectious materials. The rule will become effective by the end of this year.

The OSHA website www.osha.gov provides access to the CPL as well as related documents. (For the CPL itself go to: www.osha-slc.gov/OshDoc/Directive_data/CPL_2-2_44D.html.) Employers may call SafetyWorks! at 1-877-SAFE-345 for help understanding and implementing the bloodborne pathogens standard and the new enforcement procedures.

Public Sector Enforcement Officers Find Variety of Violations

The thirty-eight citations with penalties issued to Maine public sector workplaces between July 1, and September 30, 2000, cover many different standards, including electrical safety, respiratory protection, trenching, hazard communication, confined space, laboratory safety, emergency eye wash stations, and machine guarding. Public Sector Enforcement Officers continue to conduct thorough inspections and identify a wide range of violations.

Bureau of Labor Standards Issues \$22,545 in Penalties

The Bureau of Labor Standards issued \$22,545 in penalties to public sector workplaces for the period July 1 through September 30, 2000.

Violence in Public Sector Workplaces

In August 1999, OSHA released a report on workplace violence. The report lists several public sector occupations as having a high risk rate of nonfatal assault. These occupations are:

- police officers
- prison guards
- mental health professionals and custodial workers
- elementary, secondary, special education and college teachers
- bus drivers

The report also identifies risk factors and recommendations for safeguarding workplaces. Maine public sector employers can use this information to establish effective violence prevention programs. The report and other information on workplace violence can be found on the OSHA website at: <http://www.osha.gov/oshtinfo/priorities/violence.html>.

Regulations and compliance assistance for Maine public sector workplaces can be found on the internet at <http://janus.state.me.us/labor/bls/newpsw.htm>

Return Service Requested

MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF
LABOR
Public Sector Enforcement

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The Public Sector Safety Report is issued quarterly to inform public sector employers and employees on safety and health enforcement issues. Published by the Maine Department of Labor, the compliance and enforcement agency for occupational safety and health regulations for public sector workplaces in Maine.

Please post this Report to share the information with employees.

To be added to the mailing list, or to make address corrections, send information to *Public Sector Safety Report*, MDOL, 45 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0045, fax to (207) 624-6449 or e-mail at webmaster_bls@state.me.us. TTY 1-800-794-1110.